



Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes

Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes Meeting Minutes April 29, 2021

On April 29, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. the Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes held a remote meeting pursuant to applicable law.

The following commissioners were present: Bahena, Banerji, Buys, Goldenberg, Justicz, Kang, Kano, Kelly, Limmer, Meek, Noriega, Reynolds, Rosensweig, Sayeed, Tamley, Uhe-Edmonds, and Chair Bennett.

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order. Department of Human Rights (IDHR) Director of Legislative Affairs Carter Harms took a roll call to establish a quorum, as reflected above.

Greetings & Remarks.

Chair Bennett provided welcome remarks. Harms provided welcome remarks.

IDHR Chief Legal Counsel & Ethics Officer Betsey Madden provided an overview of ethics requirements.

IDHR Deputy Director Alex Bautista explained the role of the Department in support of the Commission.

Welcome Message.

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker provided welcome remarks.

Commissioner Introductions & Team Facilitation.

IDHR Training Institute Director Dr. Chris Smith welcomed commissioners and invited them to explain their interest in their professional work and their goals for the Commission.

Comm'r. Kano said her experience as a refugee from Iran drew her to her work. Comm'r. Kano said the Commission has an opportunity to build bridges.

Comm'r. Noriega said her experience with discrimination as a child and adult drew her to her work. Comm'r. Noriega said the Commission should work to address discrimination.

Comm'r. Bahena said the discrimination experienced by her parents that she witnessed drew her to her work. Comm'r. said she wants to create positive change.

Comm'r. Goldenberg said his past participation in programs between Black and Jewish communities in Detroit drew him to his work. Comm'r. Goldenberg said he would like the Commission to develop actionable items to address discrimination.

Comm'r. Sayeed said her experience with discrimination and bullying drew her to her work. Comm'r. Sayeed said she would like the Commission to help share Illinoisans' stories.

Comm'r. Reynolds said the importance of diversity in communities drew him to his work. Comm'r. Reynolds said he hopes to learn from other commissioners.

Comm'r. Tamley said her experiences before the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted drew her to her work. Comm'r. Tamley said she would like to learn and expand understanding of discrimination and hate crimes among the public.

Comm'r. Rosensweig said his experience growing up in a diverse community drew him to his work. Comm'r. Rosensweig said the Commission has an opportunity to leverage government powers to improve communities.

Comm'r. Buys said her interest in international relations and law drew her to her work. Comm'r. Buys said the Commission can reduce discrimination and hate crimes.

Comm'r. Banerji said her experience with discrimination growing up in Central Illinois drew her to her work. Comm'r. Banerji said applying diversity, equity, and inclusion work to the Commission can help reduce incidents of discrimination.

Comm'r. Uhe-Edmonds said she hopes the Commission will hear from students to improve their lives.

Comm'r. Limmer said his background as part of the Reform Jewish community drew him to his work. Comm'r. Limmer said he hopes the Commission will be a national model.

Comm'r. Meek said her multi-racial identity and experiences with privilege drew her to her work. Comm'r. Meek said she hopes to learn about how the State of Illinois can do more to address discrimination and hate crimes.

Comm'r. Kang said his and his family's experiences with racism and discrimination drew him to his work. Comm'r. Kang said he would like the Commission to analyze and improve upon existing models that address hate crimes.

Comm'r. Justicz said her and family's experiences with discrimination drew her to her work. Comm'r. Justicz said she hopes the Commission will help create a more equitable society.

Comm'r. Kelly said he hopes the Commission will help to build trust between communities and law enforcement.

Chair Bennett said President Trump's policies drew him to IDHR and the Commission.

Establishing Subcommittees for the Commission.

Chair Bennett read a description of three proposed committees under the Commission.

Comm'r. Kano asked what the time commitment is for commissioners, and Chair Bennett answered. Comm'r. Kano asked if the objective is for committees to establish three to five goals that can be achieved and included in an annual report. Chair Bennett answered yes.

Comm'r. Kang asked if the same topics can be addressed in different committees. Chair Bennett answered yes.

Bautista said committees would decide the frequency of committee meetings.

Comm'r. Sayeed asked if the three committees existed under the Commission previously and when the Commission was last active. Chair Bennett and Harms responded. Comm'r. Rosensweig also responded.

Comm'r. Buys expressed support for the proposed committees.

Chair Bennett moved to pass the proposal. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Public Comment.

Chair Bennett opened the floor to public comment. There was none.

Comm'rs. Limmer and Kano expressed support for the Commission.

The Commission having no further business, on a motion by Comm'r. Bahena and a second from Comm'r. Rosensweig, the meeting was adjourned.